

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A consolidation agent for molded articles and geological formations comprising at least one of porous materials and particulate materials, wherein the agent is particle-free and comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of (a) one or more organosilanes of formula (I)



wherein the radicals R independently represent non-hydrolysable groups, the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, and n is 1, 2 or 3; and (b) optionally, one or more hydrolysable silanes of formula (II)



wherein the radicals X are as defined for formula (I).

12. (previously presented) The agent of claim 11, wherein the radicals X comprise one or more radicals selected from halogen, alkoxy and acyloxy groups.

13. (previously presented) The agent of claim 12, wherein the radicals X comprise one or more radicals selected from C₂₋₄ alkoxy groups.

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14. (previously presented) The agent of claim 11, wherein the radicals R comprise one or more radicals selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and aryl groups.

15. (previously presented) The agent of claim 14, wherein the radicals R comprise one or more radicals selected from methyl and ethyl.

16. (previously presented) The agent of claim 15, wherein the radicals R comprise a phenyl group.

17. (previously presented) The agent of claim 11, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds comprising (a1) an alkylsilane, (a2) an arylsilane and (b) an orthosilicic ester.

18. (previously presented) The agent of claim 17, wherein the agent comprises at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate of compounds which comprise methyltriethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane and tetraethoxysilane.

19. (previously presented) The agent of claim 11, wherein the at least one of a hydrolysate and a precondensate has been prepared in the presence of one or more metal compounds of formula (III)



wherein M is selected from metals of main groups I to VIII and subgroups II to VIII of the Periodic Table of Elements and wherein the radicals X independently represent hydrolysable
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groups or hydroxyl groups and two radicals X may be combined to form an oxo group, and a corresponds to the valence of M.

20. (previously presented) The agent of claim 19, wherein the one or more metal compounds comprise one or more metals M which are selected from one or more of Al, B, Sn, Ti, Zr, V and Zn.

21. (previously presented) The agent of claim 20, wherein the one or more metals M comprise at least one of Al, Ti and Zr.

22. (previously presented) The agent of claim 19, wherein the one or more metal compounds of formula (III) comprise one or more alkoxides of at least one of Na, K, Al, Zr and Ti.

23. (previously presented) The agent of claim 11, wherein the agent has been prepared according to a sol-gel process using a substoichiometric amount of water relative to hydrolysable radicals X present.

24. (previously presented) A solution or emulsion which comprises the agent of claim 11.

25. (previously presented) A process for preparing a consolidated molded article, wherein the process comprises at least one of mixing and coating a material which is at least one of porous and particulate with the agent of claim 11 and thereafter curing the agent.

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26. (previously presented) The process of claim 25, wherein prior to being combined with the material the agent is activated by adding water thereto.

27. (previously presented) A consolidated molded article which is obtainable by the process of claim 25.

28. (previously presented) A process for consolidating a geological formation which is at least one of porous and particulate, wherein the process comprises at least one of injecting the agent of claim 11 into the formation and infiltrating the formation with the agent of claim 11 and thereafter curing the agent.

29. (previously presented) The process of claim 28, wherein the formation is oil-bearing and comprises sand.

30. (previously presented) A process for consolidating a geological formation, wherein the process comprises introducing consolidated molded articles of claim 27 into channels within the geological formation.